

INSECT AND DISEASE

“Destructive insects and disease organisms do not increase to potentially damaging levels following management activities”. Reference period: 2004-2006

On the Gallatin National Forest the following insect or disease agents can build to epidemic levels, under certain conditions, such as long term drought. In turn this can result in widespread forest mortality. These agents include Douglas-fir bark beetle, mountain pine beetle, western balsam bark beetle, engraver beetle, western spruce budworm, dwarf mistletoe, Schweinitzii root rot, pini rot and white pine blister rust.

Presently, there are some areas of unusually high populations of western spruce budworm and Douglas-fir bark beetle scattered around the Gallatin National Forest without respect to Management Area emphasis. These infestation levels are likely the result of drought in combination with overly dense forest conditions. Generally, forest stands that have been thinned or regenerated are not affected by epidemic insect or disease agents. There is potential for fire-weakened trees, either from wildfire or prescribed fire, to be attacked by insects, but there are no mechanically-based vegetation treatments from 2004-2006 that resulted in increased mortality due to insects and disease.